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United States Patent [19]**Hendrickson et al.**[11] **Patent Number:** **5,740,800**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Apr. 21, 1998**[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CLINICAL PATHWAY ORDER SELECTION IN A MEDICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**[75] Inventors: **Maria F. Hendrickson**, Chelmsford;
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Mass.[73] Assignee: **Hewlett-Packard Company**, Palo Alto,
Calif.[21] Appl. No.: **609,185**[22] Filed: **Mar. 1, 1996**[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **A61B 5/00**[52] U.S. Cl. **128/630; 128/920**[58] Field of Search **128/630, 920;**
364/413.01, 413.02; 395/200, 202[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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Primary Examiner—Francis Jaworski[57] **ABSTRACT**

A medical information system manages clinical pathway order selection. The medical information system includes a medical database and a user terminal having a display screen. Clinical pathways are defined in the medical database. Each of the clinical pathways is associated with a patient condition and includes a sequence of time intervals and a plurality of clinical pathway order sets. Each of the clinical pathway order sets is associated with a selected one of the time intervals. A selected clinical pathway is associated with a patient in accordance with the patient's condition. When a user selects the patient's clinical pathway order sets, a next order set, which is the first unused order set in the patient's clinical pathway order sets, is determined. A list of the clinical pathway order sets associated with the selected clinical pathway may be displayed on the display screen. The next order set is identified on the list. Clinical pathway order sets that have previously been used for the patient may also be indicated on the list of clinical pathway order sets.

19 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets